

1864 }
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BIRMINGHAM & MIDLAND ASSOCIATION

FOR

THE HELP OF THE REFUGEES FROM SLAVERY IN AMERICA,

BY A VESSEL TO BE FREIGHTED WITH STORES.

At the Thirty-ninth Annual Meeting of the Ladies' Negro's Friend Society, held at Birmingham, May 12th, 1864, the Chairman, Edward Gem, Esq., J.P., in the course of his address, referred to the present destitute condition of the *hundreds of thousands of fugitive negroes* who have escaped from slavery during the present American war. Multitudes had already perished for want of needful succour, but Freed Men's Aid Societies had been established in America and in England, and a proposition had been made by a lady—"a proposition which every lady, every merchant, and every manufacturer in the town ought to take up very strenuously, and do all in their power to bring to a successful issue. The proposition was no less than this—to freight a vessel with such implements and other articles as would assist the freed men in the United States in prosecuting the agricultural and other labours to which they have been accustomed. It must be the gentlemen to whom they would have to look for the assistance which should enable them to accomplish this object. If some of the manufacturers of the town would give some of the useful old stock which many of them have had in the corners of their warehouses for years, he had no doubt that not only would the vessel speedily be freighted, but they would soon have to charter another. He trusted the idea would be taken up and carried to a successful issue."

At a subsequent stage in the meeting, after resolutions on other subjects had been passed, and addresses delivered by the Rev. SENECA W. WINTER, the WORSHIPFUL the MAYOR, the Rev. CHARLES VINCE, and Mr. ALDERMAN MANTON, the following resolution was moved by Mr. WILLIAM MORGAN, seconded by Mr. ARTHUR J. PARTRIDGE, supported by the Rev. J. J. BROWN, and cordially adopted:—

"That this meeting cordially approves of the lady's suggestion, announced by the chairman, for the freighting of a ship load of agricultural implements, tools and other indispensable requisites, for use in the service of civilized man, to be collected and forwarded to the freed men of the United States, by a committee to be formed; and this meeting respectfully requests Mr. Edward Gem to act as chairman and treasurer of such committee, and that the Mayor be requested to allow a public appeal for contributions to be published under his patronage."

The Committee formed to carry out the above object will feel extremely grateful for any contributions which would be useful to the recently Freed People.

The lady from whom the idea sprang thus wrote to the Secretary: "My husband, in connection with his son, will give me two casks, if not more, of American plantation tools, but I have been thinking that although implements of husbandry will be very important items, there *are many other things equally desirable*."

This idea corresponds with the views of those, who, from personal experience on the spot, have written lists of needful supplies.

The Rev. Horace James, Superintendent of freed negroes in North Carolina, has made an appeal for the following articles mostly for a new colony on Roanoke island:—

Boards.
Shingles.
A steam engine, to saw our own timber and grind our own corn.
Saws.
Crowbars.
Shovels, picks, and spades.
Hoes.
Axes, hammers, and nails.
Carpenters' tools,
Seeds.
Locks.

Oilstones and grindstones.
Scythes.
Buckets, sieves, &c.
Kettles.
Tin and other plates, cups, spoons, pans, and basins.
Cutlery and tools. Nails and tools.
Glass and putty.
Fish tackle.
Twine, yarn, haberdashery of all sorts.
Scales.
Tin and sheet iron, and tools to work with.

He says, "All this we need this moment. We need quantities of clothing of all descriptions, particularly for women and children, with shoes, primers, reading and arithmetic books, slates, pencils, and stationery of all sorts."

The above list appears in an able article in the February number of "Good Words," by Mr. J. M. Ludlow, who refers to a number of similar appeals from other persons in America; and then he says,—"*These have set themselves to do a great and good work, and they have a right to speak with authority in asking for help.*"

Whatever contributions are forwarded from this country are admitted into the United States duty free, and will be consigned to responsible parties, well known on both sides of the Atlantic, who may be trusted to use them in the best possible way for securing the object of the donors, in the relief, education, and permanent condition of the freed people.

Almost anything and everything will come in well for the relief of a people who have been aptly described as "a stripped and perishing multitude." They will be taught by those self-denying and zealous brothers and sisters of charity who have gone to their assistance, from every corner of the land, to use aright every gift they may receive. It is also very important to state that at the invitation of the Government, Stores have been opened in several parts, where the newly freed negro, having commenced the life of industry, can purchase the various articles of civilized life. To these stores a very large variety of Birmingham manufactures will be considered a very useful addition; and the freed negro who has a horror of the articles that recall his slavery to mind, will be a ready purchaser of the stores supplied from our Shipload. It may be a satisfaction to many to know that this great educational, industrial and commercial work has largely fallen into the hands of members of the Society of Friends, being almost without exception unpaid volunteers. Almost any and every description of British manufactures will be likely to meet a ready and lucrative sale, so that we hope no contributions, however apparently unlikely, will be withheld.

A number of the Citizens of Liverpool have remitted to the care of the Philadelphia "Association of Friends for the Coloured Freed Men," £500.

The American Missionary Association has expended 60,000 dollars, and has 150 persons engaged in this department of service. The Federal Government gives its aid and sanction to this and other organizations.

England as well as America owes a debt to the long enslaved and oppressed negroes. They have toiled without remuneration and without hope, to supply Lancashire with Cotton, and to build up the *commercial greatness of our country*. Can there be found in all Britain a single man, woman or child, who has not benefited by the cheap clothing of cotton, wrung from their ill requited toil? The opportunity is now offered of making them some return; of extending help to them in their struggle for life and freedom, on the broad grounds of Christian philanthropy, aloof from participation in the strife of politics or of war.

In giving them, *for a short time*, food, shelter, clothing, along with the simpler elements of secular and religious instruction, we have the fullest assurance, founded on constantly accumulating proofs, that they are able and willing to work for their own livelihood when stimulated by the same motives that influence other races of freemen; and thus temporary help is shown by the experience, which every day affords, to change them at once from objects of pity and charity, to independent producers of wealth.

It is scarcely possible to estimate the enormous *interest which the people of England have in the early development of the powers of the coloured freed people, as cotton growers*. They are now upwards of a million, and their numbers are daily augmenting. The *Times* newspaper stated, in a recent article, that this country had paid away for cotton in the first three months of this year, £12,124,375, and that the lowest statement for the whole year is £65,000,000. At the present moment the price of cotton is fully four times as great as the normal price before the American war. Whenever peace may be secured, it will be of the greatest possible moment that there should be a cultivated soil and an educated peasantry to restore to us that supply of cotton, without which the people of this country are crippled in their commerce, and of which *the present enhancement of price, to the extent of at least fifty millions sterling per annum, falls chiefly on our own working population*.

The Committee, having thus submitted some of the chief features of the case for which they plead, respectfully and urgently appeal for contributions in goods or money.

They hope to freight a ship at an early date.

This will be at most a fitting acknowledgment of the George Griswold's cargo of provisions sent from the United States for the relief of the Lancashire Operatives.

Communications may be addressed to the Honorary Secretary, Mr. B. H. Cadbury, 29, George Street, Edgbaston, and contributions of money will be received by him or by the Treasurer, or by Messrs. Lloyds, Bankers, Birmingham.

Goods of any kind may be forwarded to either of the following depôts:—In BIRMINGHAM: EDWARD GEM, Charlotte Street; JOHN YATES AND CO., Pritchett Street; W. WILLMOTT, 14, Old Square; WHITE AND PIKE, Commercial Buildings Crooked Lane; A. ALBRIGHT, 30, George Street, Edgbaston, for smaller packages.—In LONDON: JOHNSON AND CO., Tea Dealers, Bloomfield Street, Finsbury, E.C.—In LIVERPOOL: JOHN GREEN, Steel Street (for light packages).

All packages to be marked "Ship C."

EDWARD GEM, CHAIRMAN AND TREASURER.

B. H. CADBURY, 29, George Street, Edgbaston, } Hon.

W. MORGAN, 37, Waterloo Street, } Secs.

C. FELTON, Erdington, }

THE FOLLOWING CONTRIBUTIONS HAVE BEEN ALREADY OFFERED.

Of Manufactures, Merchandise, and other useful Commodities.

1—Edward Gem, Useful Articles.	
2—John Yates and Co., Pritchett St. Works, 3 Casks Plantation Tools,.....value	
3—Edmund Sturge, 56lbs. Citric Acid, for Fever Drink—present wholesale value	5 0 0
4—Lloyd and Lloyd, Nile St. Tube Works, an assortment of their manufactures as shall be learnt to be most useful	10 0 0
5—Albright and Wilson, Oldbury, Medical and Sanitary Chemicals, at wholesale prices	10 0 0
6—Player Brothers, (late Hardman and Iliffe) an assortment of Buttons, &c.	5 0 0
7—Edward Baker & Sons, Assorted Goods	10 0 0
8—George Goodrick, an assortment of his Stock that may be useful	5 0 0
9—A Manufacturer (anonymous) a large Spoon Maker, promises a considerable package of his Goods	
10—White and Pike, Printing and Stationery to value of	5 0 0
11—Wood Brothers, Cradley, Cask of Frying Pans	
12—James Cropper, Esq., of Kendal writes, that he believes several woollen manu- facturers there will contribute, in goods, about	50 0 0
13—Chance Brothers & Co., Glass, and Chemi- cals, especially suitable for use in America, value	20 0 0
14—Henry Hockett, Market Harbro', Linen Drapery, wholesale value	34 0 0
15—John Reynolds and Son, a varied and use- ful assortment of Cut Nails, wholesale value about	3 10 0
16—Josiah Wedgwood & Sons, Etruria, (No. 1) a Cask of Majolica, Earthenware, &c....	5 16 3
17—William Barwell, 6 dozen Frying Pans	
18—William Blews, Clothing	
19—Mr. B. Hunt, Stationery	
20—Mr. Hobson, Smethwick, Axles	
21—Councillor Aston, an assortment of Jewel- lery	
22—White and Pike, additional 10,000 Hand- bills to inform the industrial classes	
23—Mrs. L. Brown, Leighton Buzzard, Clothing	
24—Mr. W. Middlemore, an assortment of Saddlery	10 0 0
25—T. C. Wyley, Wigan, writes: though he has sent four times to Freed Men's Aid Societies in America, he will help the Ship in Goods or money	
26—John R. Seekings, good (worn) Clothing, an assortment of Grocery and Medical Comforts	
27—W. & W. H. Avery, Book letter weigher for the use of the Association	
28—Eli Priest, Cask of assorted Chains	
29—A Box of Wearing Apparel, per Mr. John Yates	
30—Benjamin Hawkes, New Street, Selection Goods	
31—Henry Toy and Co., an assortment of Goods in course of selection	
32—Messrs. Smith and Wright, an Assort- ment of Buttons, &c.	
33—R. C. Barrow, package of Medical comforts	
34—Rea & Webb, Tin Plate Goods	
35—B. Hudson & Son, 50 copies of "Course of Faith," by J. A. James.	6 5 0

Of Money.

1—Lloyds, Fosters, and Co., Wednesbury	30 0 0
2—Edward Gem, Esq.	10 0 0
3—Rev. Dr. Marsh, Beckenham	1 0 0
4—Mr. John Yates, Pritchett Street	5 0 0
5—Alderman Palmer	5 0 0
6—Mrs. John Yates	3 0 0
7—Charles, William, and Annie Yates	1 0 0
8—Erdington Free Labour Society	2 0 0
9—Mr. Arthur Albright	5 0 0
10—Mr. Charles Sturge	5 0 0
11—Mr. Etherington Gayton, Erdington	0 5 0
12—Allen and Felton	5 0 0
13—Mr. Samuel Lloyd	5 0 0
14—Rev. H. J. Heathcote	0 10 0
15—Mr. Thomas Worsdell	10 0 0
16—Mr. James Hedges	0 5 0
17—Mr. Thomas Pashby	1 1 0
18—Mr. George Baker	5 0 0
19—Mr. Wilson Lloyd, Wednesbury	5 0 0
20—Mr. William Nutter	5 0 0
21—Mr. Thomas Crowley	5 0 0
22—Mr. John Bragg	1 0 0
23—Contributors of small Amounts from Readers of the Christian World	1 8 6
24—Friends, Lewes, per Miss Matilda Rickman	5 5 0
25—Mr. Hugh Edmonds	1 0 0
26—Mrs. Gowland	2 0 0
27—Mr. Goodman	1 0 0
28—Mr. James Collins	1 1 0
29—Mr. E. B. Bennett and Sons, St. Paul's...	1 1 0
30—Miss Whatmore	0 10 0
31—Mr. Alfred Field, Parade	3 0 0
32—Mrs. Goodwin	5 0 0
33—Mr. William Bolton, Hagley Road	1 0 0
34—Mr. Joseph Gill, Oldbury	0 10 0
35—R. L. Chance, Esq.	10 10 0
36—Henry Dickinson, Esq., Coalbrook Dale	10 0 0
37—Mrs. John Unett	2 0 0
38—Mrs. Chance	1 0 0
39—Mr. Edward Chance, Malvern	2 0 0
40—J. C. M., Bristol, 5s.	} 0 12 0
41—George Gulia, Servant, 3s.	
42—Two Friends, 2s.	} 1 0 0
43—A Friend, Islington	
44—From two Children who saw the Photo- graph of the Slave's lacerated back	1 0 0
45—Rev. W. Wippell, Woodbury, Exeter	1 0 0
46—Mr. R. Bailey, Tipton	0 2 6
47—Mr. Alfred Roberts	2 0 0
48—Mr. John Arthur Partridge	1 0 0
49—Mr. John Palmer	5 0 0
50—Mr. James Baldwin	10 10 0
51—3 Contributions as acknowledged in the Christian World	0 12 6
52—Mr. Brooke Smith	5 0 0
and £2 per quarter until Lady-Day	6 0 0
53—Mr. John Onions	0 10 0
54—Mr. W. H. Avery	5 0 0
55—John Barwell	2 0 0
55—Alderman Palmer	5 0 0
56—Medical Friend	1 1 0
57—Mr. J. C. Woodhill	5 5 0
58—Councillor Aston	2 2 0
59—Mr. G. B. Kenway	1 0 0
60—Mr. G. W. Robinson, of Walmsley	0 2 6
61—Councillor Boyce	1 1 0
62—Mr. Harry Heaton	1 0 0
63—M. and M. U. Horner	1 0 0
64—Joseph Blakemore, Esq.	5 0 0
65—Henry Kenway	5 0 0
66—T. P. Bevans, Coventry	1 0 0

67—Mr. Arthur Atkins, Coventry	5	0	0
68—Mr. Benjamin H. Cadbury	5	0	0
69—Mr. John R. Seekings	2	2	0
70—S. Bailey, W. Bromwich	0	5	0
71—Mr. Joseph Bradley	0	10	0
72—Mr. S. Bayley, West Bromwich	0	15	6
73—Mr. J. Marsden	1	0	0
74—Mr. G. Davis	0	2	6
75—Mr. J. Derrington	0	2	6
76—M. A. Lewis	0	2	6
77—Ann Green	0	2	6
78—Sundries	1	7	4
79—C. Y., by S. A. G.	1	0	0
80—Mr. Thomas Parsons, Stroud	1	0	0
81—Postage Stamps—E. Bullock	0	0	6
82—Mr. R. Martineau	1	1	0
83—Rev. Charles Clarke	0	10	0
84—Mr. R. F. Martineau	2	2	0
85—Mr. Cook	0	5	0
86—Mr. Joseph Clark	2	0	0
87—Mr. J. Teale, Winchcombe	1	0	0
88—Mr. Cropper, Dingle Bank, Liverpool ...	5	0	0
89—Contributions from the Ladies of Carlisle, by Mrs. Ellwood, Brockbank	20	0	0
90—Mrs. Page	5	0	0
91—Mr. Thomas Gelthorpe, Louth, sundries...	1	16	11
92—Mr. Rogers, Hackney	0	5	0
93—Mr. E. Hoskins	1	0	0
94—Mr. G. Vale, Essex	0	5	0
95—S. P. Southend, per E. Bullock	0	5	0
96—A Friend at Deal	0	2	6
97—Mr. Thomas Dixon	1	0	0
98—Mr. G. Thonger	0	10	0
99—Mr. John Nichols	0	10	0
100—Mr. Timothy Hawkes	5	0	0
101—Mr. A. Arculus	1	1	0
102—Mr. Findlater	0	10	0
103—Miss Rayner	0	2	6
104—M. A. Southall, Leominster	2	0	0
105—Miss Yerbury, per A. H. Richardson ...	2	0	0
106—Cook, Edge, and Malkin, Burslem	1	1	0
107—Mrs. Highway, Stokeleigh Rectory	1	1	0
108—J. and S. Burgess, Riddington Park	2	0	0

WHITE AND PIKE, PRINTERS, BIRMINGHAM.